

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 8 ** NUMBER 6

JUNE 1990

EDITED BY:	DICK WAGNER
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TREASURER:	ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER:	BOB EVANS
LIBRARIANS:	JACK ARMSTRONG
	BILL DUNLOP
	TERRY GRAHAM

MEETING

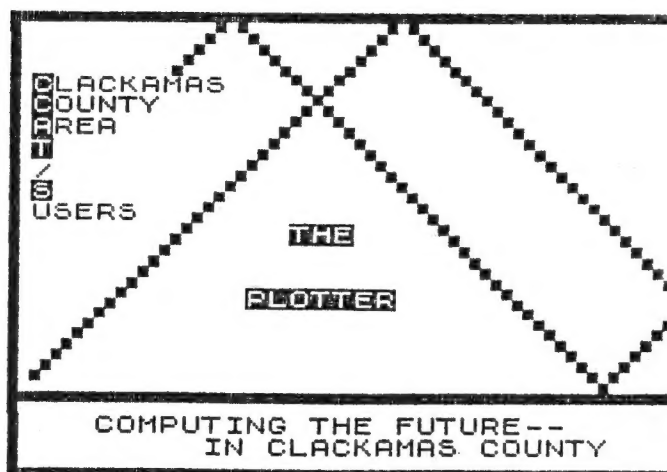
The JUNE meeting will be:

on: SAT., JUNE 16, 1990

POTLUCK dinner (see details)
at: ARMSTRONG HOME
1624 S. E. INSLEY
PORTLAND, OR
235-6244

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

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MAY MEETING MINUTE

The May meeting was called to order by Chairman Lukes at 7:30 PM. There were 12 people in attendance.

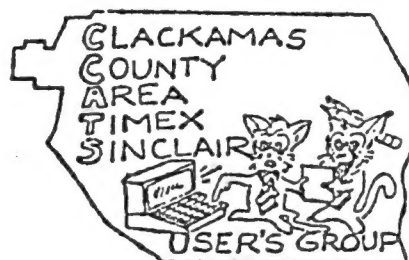
D.S. Lewis mentioned that we had an unknown guest at our April swap meet--Don Taylor of the C.P.M. user group showed up in the morning, too early for the afternoon meet. Lewis also inquired of the availability of the Cambridge Z88 computer as a friend wished to obtain one. R.M.G. Enterprises still had one in stock.

Considerable discussion followed on the subject of the use of computers in real estate programs. It seems that a high pressure program sell was of interest.

Jack Armstrong confirmed that our June 16 (Saturday) pot luck was to be at his home. (See details in this issue)

Ed Fry noted that he had a QL system plus supplies for sale at the meeting as he was unable to be at the April swap meet.

>>>



D.S. Lewis suggested that he could demonstrate some of his machine code programs which he has developed. This would be at some future meeting.

RMG Enterprises will be represented at the Computer Fest in Wisconsin. Advertising supplies will be sent as the cost of travel is a bit high.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

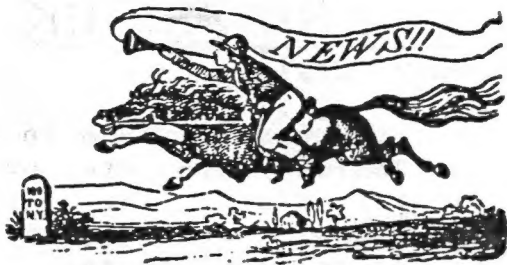
POTLUCK PARTY DIRECTIONS & MAP

If you are going to be coming from the south, you can come up McLoughlin to the left turn onto 17th which has a left turn with a traffic signal; it is marked with a sign to reach Sellwood and also Clackamas via Highway 224. It is

If you are coming from the east, you come west on Holgate which has an overpass over the railroad tracks just east of 17th. Turn left on 17th and go south to Insley or the alley just beyond. Note that there is a break in the map, so Tacoma is not shown. The Potluck is to be held on the 16th of June, Saturday, and the start is around 2:00 PM; come early if you like and we will probably eat somewhere around 4:00 PM. Bring a couple of folding chairs, your appetite and enjoy.

Hand-drawn sketch map showing a road network. The map includes the following labels and features:

- Top Road:** MALOUGHLIN
- Second Road:** MILWAUKIE
- Third Road:** 17th
- Fourth Road:** HOLGATE
- North Arrow:** N (pointing upwards)
- Fifth Road:** INSLEY
- Sixth Road:** 1624 SE INSLEY
- Seventh Road:** HAROLD
- Eighth Road:** BYBEE
- Ninth Road:** 17th
- Tenth Road:** McLOUGHLIN
- Eleventh Road:** LOOK FOR SIGN: TO CLACKA ROUTE 224
- Feature:** A wavy line representing a river or stream crossing the road between the 17th and McLOUGHLIN roads.



UPDATE! MAGAZINE

Word has been out for some time about UPDATE! Magazine. It's owner and editor, Bill Jones, has reached the limit of duration for single handedly writing, editing, assembling, mailing, corresponding, filing, programming, of the magazine, and preparing his famous Issue Disk Programs.

Unlike other magazines that sell out or just fold up, UPDATE! will remain in full production under the supervision of Frank Davis who will be the publisher. This is dedication considering that UPDATE! has been a labor of love. It has been a break even or less project on Bill's part.

Bill is going to take a well earned vacation with a lot of sailing to do. After that he expects to be back working on ideas he has for programs for the 2068, QL, and MS-DOS computers. We expect to see some of his work again in UPDATE! as a writer.

Frank Davis will take over the publishing after the July issue which is the last issue of this year. The October issue will be particularly interesting as it will give the subscribers a hint of how changes will take place.

At this time the subscription rate will continue at \$18.00 for the coming year. Renewal subscriptions and new subscriptions should be mailed to Frank Davis, PO box 1095, Peru, IN 46970. Be sure, if you are a new subscriber, that you tell Frank that it is for next year period. Otherwise you just might get

a complete set of issues for 1989-1990. The name change is "UPDATE Computer Systems", same address. Of course, Frank will get the complete mailing list, plus all of the unused programs and articles Bill has on hand. He will also be issuing the Issue Disks. Hopefully, all of the good writers who Bill cultivated will continue to provide the top of the line articles and programs for us.

A few things about Frank will show our readers that this magazine will be in capable hands. Carol and Fran Davis are the team, along with many other faithfuls, who put on those fine Midwest Timex-Sinclair Compute Fests. His publishing experience has been 4 years of editing the TSUG News Letter.

Frank and Carol will need all of the assistance they can get as this is a big task they have taken on. Let's at least get that subscription in. I doubt that we will have the same exchange of a year's issues for UPDATE! for our annual newsletters so don't count on getting it from our library. Of course, CCAT/S can subscribe. That will be up to the members.

BITS & BYTES

by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fit this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

ZEBRA SYSTEMS-

Has finally give RMG the go ahead to produce and market the software that they had had exclusive rights to. This includes such favorites as TECH DRAW JR., GREETING CARD DESIGNER, SIGN DESIGNER, BANNER DESIGNER and the ICON PACKAGES that were designed and never released. RMG hopes to have them available by

Continued from page 3
mid summer. If you are interested
in any of them, THE PLOTTER.

VULCAN COMPUTER TRADER-

Is where you will be able to read the new Timex/Sinclair column by Bill Ferrebee of Mountaineer Software. This new "orphans" column should be of interest to all of you who were reading the column that used to appear in Computer Shopper. We will try to have an address and subscription information for you by next month. The first TS column is due to appear in the July, 1990 issue of the magazine. It should be available on newsstands by mid-June.

PC SEG-

That's "PC Special Education Group" for those who do not know. This is the sub-group that will be helping members of CCAT/S who own or use MS-DOS machines and need some help with the world of DAS. We will be having our first meeting of this SEG in the regular 2nd Friday time slot in July. as you know, we do not normally meet in July, but we voted to have the inaugural meeting of the SEG in the same night. There will be 2 or 3 PCs there for display and practice along with the start of a 4 hour video course on MS-DAS and IBM clone computers. The first 1/2 hour will be shown and there will be a discussion period following the video. If you own or use one of these units, feel free to come on out to the regular meeting place.

POTLUCK-

As in "bring something good to eat and enjoy the company!" We will be having our "annual" dinner as a potluck affair this time. Jack Armstrong and his wife have kindly offered to host it at their home. The date is June 16th. That is a Saturday and we can start arriving around 2 PM. Jack asked that those who are planning on bringing something (who would NOT!) get in touch with Maxine (his wife) to verify what they are planning to bring. You can reach her at: 235-6244 in the evening. Let's make sure we have a wide variety of food! Come on out and enjoy!

MIKE'S NOTEBOOK

by: Michael DiRienzo

Here are two commands found in other computer BASICs which are missing from Sinclair BASIC. They are GET and PUT, and are used for transferring screen images. This months utility will provide you with these two powerful BASIC keywords.

By definition, GET obtains a specific array of bytes from the screen and stores them in a user specified area of RAM. PUT places the stored array of bytes back onto the screen. The array specifications are provided by you within a BASIC statement with the following syntax:

RANDOMIZE USR (GET or PUT):

(see listing for use)

PRINT AT line, column, height,
width, address

The arguments include specifications of a rectangular area of the display screen. The first two numbers specify the upper left-hand corner of the rectangle. The next two numbers specify the height and width of the rectangle. The fifth number is the address in RAM where the array of bytes is stored. The proper range of values for the arguments are as follows:

Column = 0 to 31

Line = 0 to 23

Height = 1 to 24

Width = 1 to 32

When the code is called, the syntax of the PRINT AT statement is checked and error trapping is provided. There are many uses for these programming tools in your programs. The demo given below employs a type of animation. You can also use it to print text or graphics on top of an existing screen then restoring the area that was covered up. You can also prepare and save several rectangular screens using the GET command and storing them at different RAM addresses. SAVE them as CODE and calculate the CODE

Continued from page 4
length by PEEK 60297+256*PEEK 60298.
You can PUT them anywhere on the
screen using BASIC in your programs.
In the demo given below, a star is
drawn in line 30. Line 40 stores a
10X10 character rectangle starting
at line 0, column 0, at address
50000. Line 45 prints a message over
the top of the star. Lines 60 to 100
cycle around infinitely PUTting the
defined rectangle one character at a
time up, down, left, or right until
it bumps into a screen edge. Don't
forget to RUN line 9800 first to
poke in the CODE. The CODE is not
relocatable as written. A checksum
is provided to tell you if you made
a typing error. The CODE is 397
bytes long. Have fun!!

Happy TIMEXing...

Program: "GETPUT"

by Michael Di Rienzo

```

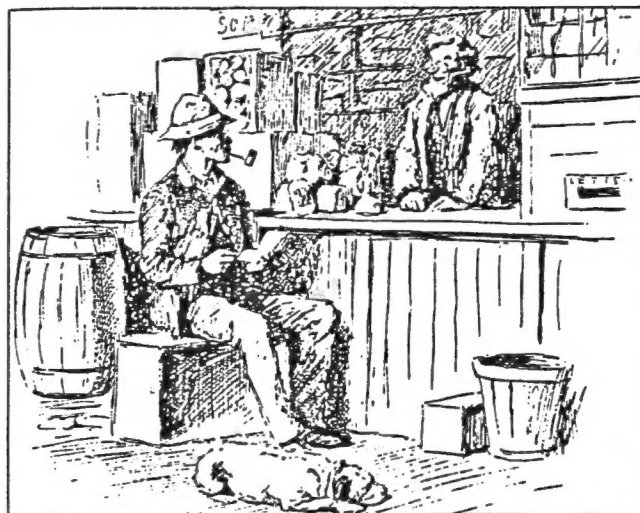
10 LET get=60000
20 LET put=60006
30 PLOT 9,142: DRAW 57,10,4000
40 RANDOMIZE USR get: PRINT AT
0,0;10,10,50000
45 PRINT FLASH 1;AT 4,2; INK 2
;"GETPUT"; INVERSE 1;AT 5,2; INK
1;"Demo!!": PRINT AT 10,5;"Pres
s a key to start...": PAUSE 0
50 LET d=-1: LET dx=d: LET dy=
d: LET x=-d: LET y=-d
60 LET x=x+dx: LET y=y+dy
70 IF NOT x OR x=22 THEN LET d
x=dx*d: BEEP .01,y
80 IF NOT y OR y=14 THEN LET d
y=dy*d: BEEP .01,x
90 RANDOMIZE USR put: PRINT AT
y,x;10,10,50000
100 GO TO 60
9800 CLEAR 49999: LET t=0
9810 FOR n=60000 TO 60396
9820 READ a: POKE n,a: LET t=t+a
9830 NEXT n: IF t<>47831 THEN PR
INT "Data Error! Recheck DATA li
nes": STOP
9840 RUN
9850 DATA 175,50,139,235,24,5,62
,1,50,139,235,33,0,0,34,131,235,
62,2,205,48,18,205,136,8,223,254
,58,32,47,231,254,245,32,42,253,
52,13,231,254,172,32,34,205,220,
27,205,96,38,97,104,34,131,235,2
23,254,59,32,18,205,220,27,205,9
6,38,120,65,79,237,67,133,235,22
3,254,44,40,2,207,11,205,228,27,

```

```

205,96,49,237,67,135,235,237,75,
133,235,237,91,131,235
9860 DATA 58,143,92,245,120,130,
56,12,254,25,48,8,121,131,56,4,2
54,33,56,2,207,4,197,213,17,9,0,
98,104,205,182,46,89,205,182,46,
30,13,25,34,137,235,68,77,42,135
,235,113,35,112,35,237,91,132,92
,115,35,114,35,237,91,136,92,115
,35,114,35,237,91,141,92,115
9870 DATA 35,114,35,58,145,92,11
9,35,62,2,229,205,48,18,225,193,
229,205,178,5,235,225,115,35,114
,35,193,113,35,112,35,235,58,139
,235,254,1,40,92,241,229,111,38,
0,34,141,92,34,143,92,253,116,87
,225,120,6,0,245,135,135,135,229
,229,197
9880 DATA 237,176,193,225,205,11
2,235,61,32,244,225,205,102,235,
241,197,229,237,176,225,1,32,0,9
,193,61,32,243,201,124,230,56,31
,31,31,246,88,103,201,245,36,124
,230,7,32,10,125,198,32,111,56,4
,124,214,8,103,241,201,0,0,0,0,0
9890 DATA 0,0,0,0,42,135,235,78,
35,70,197,35,241,229,94,35,86,35
,237,83,132,92,94,35,86,35,237,8
3,136,92,94,35,86,35,237,83,141,
92,237,83,143,92,126,35,50,145,9
2,94,35,86,35,78,35,6,0,126,35,2
45,135
9900 DATA 135,135,213,213,197,23
7,176,193,209,235,205,112,235,23
5,61,32,242,209,235,205,102,235,
235,241,197,213,237,176,227,1,32
,0,9,235,225,193,61,32,241,225,1
93,201

```



"Got a special today on a 64K, double-density, 8-bit sweetheart of a computer."

See RMG Enterprise's latest
catalog for other good
specials!

SIMPLE AMORTIZATION

We are pleased to see some of our long-time members coming up with ways to do "their own thing" and being willing to share this with others. We present you now with a short program submitted to us by one of our members, R. E. Gerow, of Oregon City. We hope that someone will give it a try and maybe even get some use out of it. It is a mortgage amortization program in basic that is easily modifiable. If you have any questions regarding the program, please inquire by mail at the address on the back of this newsletter.

SIMPLE AMORTIZATION

by: R. E. Gerow

```
5 CLS
10 PRINT "PRINCEPAL IN $?": INP
UT A
15 PRINT "$";A
20 PRINT "% INTEREST?": INPUT I
I
25 PRINT II;"%"
26 LET I=II/100
30 PRINT "LENGTH IN YEARS?": IN
PUT Y
35 PRINT Y
40 LET P=A*I/12/((1-(1+I/12)^-(1
2*Y))
50 PRINT "MONTHLY PAYMENT IS "
;: PRINT "$";INT (P+.5);".00"
60 LET PP=P*Y*12-A
70 PRINT "TOTAL INTEREST PAID
";: PRINT "$";INT ((PP+.005)*100
)/100
75 PRINT
80 PRINT "MONTHLY PAYMENT roun
ded to the nearest dollar figure
"
9900 PAUSE 0: CLS
9920 PRINT "FINISHED? Y/N"
9930 PAUSE 0: IF INKEY$="N" OR IN
KEY$="n" THEN CLS : GO TO 9991
9940 IF INKEY$="Y" OR INKEY$="y"
THEN GO TO 9993
9991 GO TO 5
9993 RANDOMIZE USR 100: NEW
9999 RANDOMIZE USR 100: SAVE "AMO
R.B1" LINE 5
```

PC-SEG NEWS

Have you heard? We have a new addition to our group! The PC-SEG, which stands for PC-SPECIAL EDUCATION GROUP, is our first sub-group and has been established to help those of the group who have recently (or maybe not-so-recently) come up against the world of MS-DOS. We hope that the information gained in the meetings of the new SEG will be of some use to those who receive it.

Our first SEG meeting is set for July 13, 1990, at the regular meeting place. As you may know, we normally do not meet in July so this is NOT a TS meeting, just a PC-SEG meeting. The time set for the meeting is 7:00 PM on that Friday night. We hope that any and all who have an interest in learning IBM clone computer basics and MS-DOS will be in attendance.

At this first meeting we hope to find out just what we need to cover, how much we already know and where we want to end up. There will be several PC computers set up for experimentation by members. There will be the beginning of a 4 hour video taped course on computer basics and MS-DOS command structure and commands. During course of the video tape sessions, we will cover all of the DOS commands as well as learning the basics of writing AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS and other .BAT files. The Computer Tutor course is a full 4 hour video tape course, but we will be doing only 1/2 hour per meeting. After which there will be a discussion period and time for demonstrations of what was shown with "hands on" experience being the keyword here.

If any of you feel like you would like to play "host" at a future meeting or would like to volunteer to bring your PC for demo use, feel free to call me at: 655-7484 Noon-10 PM Tue-Sat and we will talk. If any of you have learned something on your PC and would like to share it with others in the group, please

feel free to write a short article for THE PLOTTER and we will but it on our soon to be regular PC PAGE.

I guess that this is sort of the inauguration of that as well! If there is something you would like to see discussed here or at a meeting be sure to let us hear from you.

See you all later....Rod

A HOT QL FIX (CONTINUED)

Dick Wagner

The saga of my QL's ability to stop operating and ultimately showing a crash scene on the screen is concluded in this article. Here is my last and final fix. It could have been the first and only for all I know. However the changes that were described in the first article were worth the effort. Now very little heat is present (to the feel). Of course the Trump Card still generates heat but does not seem to cause any problem. Some readers will be aware that I just traded heat sources when I added the 12 ohm resistor, but it's location is such that it's heat does not produce a problem.

Since writing part one, I still experienced failures after an hour or so. In an effort to isolate any external problem I disconnected all peripherals for an over night test. After connecting the monitor the computer was acting properly. SO, maybe there was a different problem. The easiest to check over was the Trump Card area. As the peripheral had been removed, I searched the cavity at the left end of the computer. There were parallel scratches in the clear plastic insulation at the bottom of the cavity.

A close look with a magnifying lense at the underside of the Trump Card circuit board showed some particles of the scratched insulation on a few of the sharp wires. Also several of the longer wires had been bent over. Sighting across the sharp points/wires did show some protruding

further than the others. A forceful application of my small wire cutters (side cutters) on all of the points quickly removed all points/wires down to the solder bead. This was done on the part of the board that was uncovered by the cover/heat sink, that part that extended into the computer cavity. This was finished with a pass of a file over the trimmed area just to remove wire that still might protrude beyond the solder. Forcefully blowing across the circuit removed any metal dust or clippings. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THE TRIMMING WITH A FILE! Now if any contact should be made to the layer of insulation it will be by a solder button and not a sharp wire. Thus any scratches will not cause a short again.

My analysis of what had happened may be only applicable to my equipment. Probably, the heat from the Trump Card voltage regulator was sufficient after a period of time to produce a slight downward warp in the circuit board. This in turn caused a contact of one or more wires/points to the ground plane where a sufficient scratch exposed the ground.

The QL computer has been on continuously for several days with program in place, plus Lightning, plus TK_2. All is serene in the Wagner household again.

EDITORIAL

For a National computer that just won't quit, there certainly seems to be a lot of activity in all parts of the country. We have known for some time that Bill Jones was intending to divest himself of his magazine (that started out as a newsletter but outgrew that idea with the first issue). He has found a very capable computerist to take over the job of editing and handling all details of publishing UPDATE!. Frank Davis will need all of the assistance he can get. One of the first things for us to do is get in a renewed subscription to show him some support (or how about a few new subscriptions?).

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Continued from page 7.

It seems that MS-DOS will be another computer language for some of us to learn. The availability of really low priced computers plus so many programs makes the idea of also using MS-DOS rather enticing. And it all started with the little ZX 81 computer for many of us. Thinking back on those days, the idea seemed to be find out if we had use for or were interested in computing, and then upgrading to a "real" machine. Some have settled for the 2068, or QL, or other make. Maybe MS-DOS will satisfy some of us.



The EDITOR hard at work writing inspirational material for this edition of THE PLOTTER.

-NOTICE-

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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